The Lions' Pride

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Students working to grant wishes for children

By Katie Gwinn
Staff Writer

Since 2003, student athletes across the nation have been working diligently to make dreams come true for children with life-changing illnesses. Nicole Semeraro, wife of Saint Leo University's Associate Athletic Director for External Operations, John Semeraro, introduced student athletes to the Make A Wish Foundation while studying and playing volleyball at Bentley College in Massachusetts.

As a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative at her school, Semeraro helped to establish the tradition of granting wishes at a National SAAC Meeting. Since then, Division II SAAC members from every state have made it their goal to grant children's wishes. "We believed in the mission and the work of the Make A Wish Foundation, and as Division II student-athletes, wanted to find a cause [that] all student-athletes in Division II could work together on," says John Semeraro, who was previously a member of Saint Leo's SAAC. "We found that everyone was doing so much great work individually on their campuses – why not try to find a cause where we could make a great impact collectively, regardless of conference affiliation, campus size, or location?"

Saint Leo University also began this mission in 2003, working with other schools from the Sunshine State Conference to reach the minimum $5,000 to grant a child's wish. However, the 2010-2011 school year set a new benchmark for Saint Leo students and faculty as they single-handedly raised $5,130. At a national level, Division II schools raised $405,752, barely missing their record of $407,683 that was created the year before. "The team worked relentlessly to reach their goal, and we are beyond thrilled that somebody as deserving as Dylan was able to have his wish fulfilled," said Saint Leo SAAC Advisor and head Women's Golf coach, Erika Brennan.

Exemplifying the true spirit of the Saint Leo Benedictine core values, students and staff participated in various fundraisers to reach the specified amount needed to make a special child's wish come true. Thanks to raffles, 50/50 drawings, employee denim days, and direct donations, Dylan, age 12, was able to have his wish granted. On July 3, 2011, Dylan, who suffers from epilepsy, experienced his dream of meeting his idol and favorite football star, Tim Tebow in Denver, Colorado. Upon meeting his wish granters, Maria Jameson and Joe Pearl, Dylan explained his lifelong dream of meeting Tim Tebow by saying, "I've always wished I could be like him one day!"

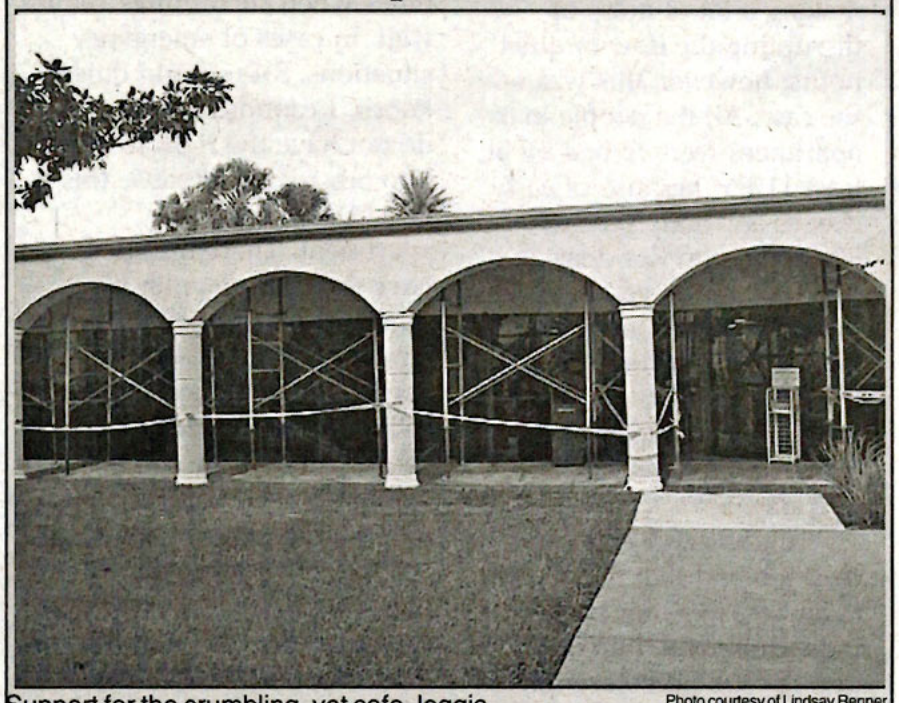
"Being there when Dylan found out he was leaving for Colorado to meet Tim Tebow brought me to tears" said Brennan. "Dylan is a bright young man, full of life, and you could feel how much this meant to him."

This year, the Saint Leo SAAC has set a goal of granting two wishes – an effort that will take $10,000 in donations. Unlike previous years where only Saint Leo Athletics has contributed to the cause, SAAC hopes this year to incorporate all of Saint Leo University's clubs, departments, and organizations and turn the tradition into a campus-wide effort. Thus far, the Student Government Union has marked the beginning of the year-long donation challenge by contributing $2,500 to the fund while athletes have helped to get the ball rolling by setting team goals and selling raffle tickets. Saint Leo sororities and fraternities have pledged to participate in a donation competition amongst each other and Lions faculty, staff, and coaches have each decided to play a role in the cause in their own special way.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Make A Wish Foundation through Saint Leo University, please contact Erika Brennan at Erika.Brennan@saintleo.edu.

Fear not, students

The Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library is safe and open for business



Support for the crumbling, yet safe, loggia

Photo courtesy of Lindsay Renner

By Lindsay Renner
Copy Editor

Contrary to popular belief, the library is not a death trap.

The scaffolding present underneath the loggia outside the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library has been the center of speculation for many Saint Leo students after returning from the summer to a completely foreign sight. Many have questioned whether or not it was safe to enter and exit the library under such precarious looking conditions, and rest assured, it is.

"It's perfectly safe. Ugly, but safe," said Frank Mezzanini, Vice President of Business and Finance. In fact, there may have never even have been a serious threat at all, even if repairs were strongly needed. "The bracing we have underneath there is called structural bracing," said Mezzanini. "It would have collapsed if it wasn't there, in our opinion. We don't know, actually, but to make sure it didn't we put the structural bracing there, which can easily hold it up." The bracing was placed underneath the loggia under the summer when it was first noted that it was starting to pull away from the building, creating danger to those walking in and out of the library.

The loggia itself is not a part of the library's original structure, which was erected around 40-50 years ago and was initially much smaller than the building students currently know and recognize. The third floor and the basement area were added on some years later, along with the windowed area and offices on the main level of the building. The loggia, however, was erected in the 1980s.

According to Mezzanini, the most of maintaining the loggia as it currently exists gives "an incentive" to figure out what to do in terms of repairs. "We're renting it for, believe it or not, 1500 a month, and it cost me 7500 dollars to get it installed…money's just going away as we try to decide what we want to accomplish. We're using the opportunity to say 'How can I make it better?"

The decision for the school has become one of what to do with the existing loggia. Currently, the debate stands between two options: tearing the loggia down altogether and placing in something completely new, or repair what's there. Mezzanini is hesitant to repair the existing loggia, saying instead that he wants to make it better than what it was. A variety of plans exist as options at this point.

The library will remain open through whatever changes occur at the front of the building, even if, as Mezzanini said, "There might be times where we have to use the backdoor to get in, but we'll always have access."

Opinions

Can I get a courtesy knock?

By Tara McLoughlin
News Editor

On Friday September 30, I was woken at 2 AM to the sound of my door bell repeatedly ringing followed by obnoxious banging. Now, this may have been normal for someone who was making a lot of noise or disrupting the flow of quiet hours: however, this was not the case. All the people in my apartment were in bed by at least 11 PM because of early classes and early practices. However, two Resident Assistants proceeded to pound on our door at this time. Their reason for doing this? To run a power cord through our room so that we could have power for the next day.

I understand that this is their job and that they have to answer to a higher individual. Still, I do not think it was necessary for them to do this at that hour. We have gone without water before. This is not the first time. Last year, we were at the point where we needed to boil water before drinking or using it, so clearly we are fully capable of going a few hours without taking a shower or using running water. This is why I think it would have been more logical for the event to take place during the day. Most people have early classes, practices, or work hours, and don't need to be woken up in the middle of the night so that resident assistants can check a chore off their list. We follow the rules: we allow walkthroughs and we have no problem having RAs come into our room at their request. However, these instances should be documented in an email. Students have the right to know that this will be going on. They also have the right to know that someone has been in their personal space.

I am aware that there are times when such things cannot wait. In cases of emergency situations, RAs should quietly knock. I cannot say that they do not have the right to barge into our rooms, because this is false. I do not own my apartment. Therefore, they have the right to enter my room whenever they want. It is obvious that the RAs who barged into my room were trying not to invade our privacy: they were simply waiting for someone living in the room to allow them to come in. Although they were correct in reasoning for doing so, they were wrong in the way that they did it. When we did not respond to the knocking and banging, they should have keyed in. They knew this was not a usual hour for people to be awake. There was no reason for them to have woken us up in such a rude manner. This only caused us to become angrier in the fact that we were forced to toss and turn until we fell back asleep.

It all comes down to respect. All Saint Leo students are supposed to live according to the University's key values, which includes respect, both for ourselves and respect for others. Resident assistants should be no exception to this. We will not interfere with your job if you do not interfere with our sleep!

The Lions' Pride

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Florida's Driving Under The Influence Laws: An Eye For An Eye

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Ten years ago, 24 year old University Of West Florida senior Eric Smallridge left a bar where he had been watching a favorite band with some friends. Smallridge was drinking beer, but like other times, he did a self-sobriety field test by standing on one leg and putting his index finger on his nose and felt he was sober enough to drive. While driving home, a white car in the right lane that was ending cut into his lane. Smallridge swerved his truck into the left lane in order to avoid a collision with the white car, but ended up hitting another car in which two college girls were riding. Their car spun out of control and hit a tree. The impact killed the girls.

While being treated in the ambulance, Smallridge was approached by a police officer and told that he would be required to give a blood sample. "Why, I was just trying to avoid an accident." Smallridge said. The officer responded with, "Don't tell me you don't know that there are two dead girls in the other car." Smallridge said at that point, his life changed forever.

Smallridge was convicted of two counts of DUI manslaughter that carried 15 year sentences each. The judge had the choice of either sentencing Smallridge concurrently or consecutively; the judge chose to give him two consecutive 11 year sentences adding up to 22 years with eight years of probation. Before the accident, Smallridge's biggest concern about driving under the influence was he might get a DUI. Killing someone never occurred to him.

No one intentionally drinks and drives with the thought of taking the lives of innocent people.

The choice to drink and drive is a selfish decision that involves calculating the chances of getting caught and dealing with a license suspension and fine, and not really thinking about anyone else on the road.

Smallridge noted that if Florida's DUI laws were more severe, he would not have driven home that night, two innocent girls would still be alive, and he would not be in a maximum security prison. First offense DUI punishments should be extreme enough to deter people from driving while under the influence. The current law in Florida for first time DUI offenders is a 180-day suspension of one's license, and a fine of a few hundred dollars. Smallridge commented that the penalty for first time offenders is not enough of a deterrent to stop many people from driving after consuming alcohol. Florida should follow the example of other countries with harsher first time DUI offences.

* Is Smallridge's sentencing a fair punishment?
*Was Smallridge justly punished for taking the lives of two innocent girls, or was it "an eye for an eye" sentence?
*Did the judge use Smallridge as an example of what would happen to you and me if we decide to drink and drive?
*If so, then why do so many people continue to drive under the influence?

Smallridge did not intentionally try to kill anyone, but he was sentenced to a maximum security prison for 22 years. Smallridge said that in prison he is treated the same as if he intentionally murdered the girls, and on the outside, the girl Smallridge loved is now married to someone else while he serves his jail sentence and the world passes him by. The choice to drink and drive resides solely with you; however, the consequences will be shouldered by you and the people that you harm.

Newsroom

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Campus News

Bringing Awareness to Saint Leo

By Meghan Mathias
Staff Writer

October is a month full of pumpkins, fall colors, wishful thoughts of cooler weather, and also awareness. October is Disability Awareness Month and this is a month that Saint Leo fully participates in, in order to broaden college student's knowledge of a variety of disabilities.

Disabilities do not only have to be physical but they can also include learning, seen and unseen disabilities. Paige Ramsey, the Associate Director for Multicultural and International Services, has been planning events for the students of Saint Leo for disability awareness month since the year of 2004. Every year since 2004, she has expanded the amount of activities that are planned for Saint Leo, in order for students to understand the world of disabilities and better connect with people who have disabilities. Saint Leo's disability awareness week occurred the week of October 3-7, 2011.

Each day Saint Leo had a planned activity including two public speakers: William Deering and Keith Wann. Deering's story is one that is very inspirational to whoever hears it. Deering has a stuttering disability, and offered a personal anecdote in his presentation. Since he stuttered so badly, he would avoid speaking and answering the phone whenever possible. If there were an absolute need for him to answer the phone, it would take him three minutes to state his name and then another three minutes to finish the introduction of the phone call, not including the rest of the phone call. He now is a public speaker and presents numerous presentations and has overcome his obstacle in life, which is such an encouragement all people.

Wann has a different background with disabilities. He was born perfectly healthy to two parents who were completely deaf and did not speak English. Wann grew up in a home where his first language that he learned was American Sign Language and then he later learned English. Wann does his entire skit in sign language and it is quite entertaining to watch. Wann grew up in a world where he was first exposed to parents who had a disability but he learned to welcome the differences that his parents had and learn how to teach others about how to accept disabilities.

Saint Leo also hosted practical activities that let the students have a hands-on approach to living with a disability. Ramsey says that it "is to let the students see what it is like to live in their shoes". There was a challenge experience featuring wheelchair obstacle courses, an activity where socks were placed on hands to show how it is to live without the ability to use fine motor skills, and an experience where people were blind folded and asked to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches while people moved around the jars of peanut butter and jelly and loaves of better to demonstrate what happens when someone interrupts a blind person's routine, for their routine is their livelihood and they know how to operate as if they did have the ability to see. The last day of the awareness week offered blind beep softball where the bases have sound alerts on them and the pitcher throws the ball with the saying of "ready", "pitch" or "ball" to alert the batter that he is going to throw the ball and what type of ball it is going to be (if they can hit the ball or not). It is a highly competitive game and is quite fun once people get used to the idea of a playing a game with blindfolds on.

The month of October offers a lot to do, but it is also a month that is very informative. Disability Awareness Month is designed to let people know and feel what it is like to live with a disability. It is an event that Saint Leo fully endorses for here, the ability to learn about other people is an important part of recognizing what you can do to help others.

Joining in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

By Meahgan Jameyson
Staff Writer

For almost 30 years, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure movement has worked diligently to spread Breast Cancer Awareness to the masses and become the largest source of nonprofit organizations dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and this year, organizations and students on Saint Leo University's campus are joining in on the fight against breast cancer like never before; many events are taking place on campus in support of breast cancer awareness.

The Rho Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. encouraged the Saint Leo Community to wear pink on October 14, 2011 to show those suffering from breast cancer, or those who have relatives suffering from breast cancer that Saint Leo students support their struggle. Also, on October 14th, the fraternity is hosted a breast cancer seminar in the Donald R. Tapia School of Business. Doctors came to speak and educate Saint Leo students about breast cancer and provide mammograms for those interested or in need. "Our mission for October 14 is to save lives by increasing the awareness of breast cancer here at Saint Leo University," said Kyle Sears.

Saint Leo University Athletics hosted a Pink Out volleyball game on September 30, 2011. Spectators were encouraged to wear pink to the game, and the organization with the most members in pink won a pizza party for their entire organization.

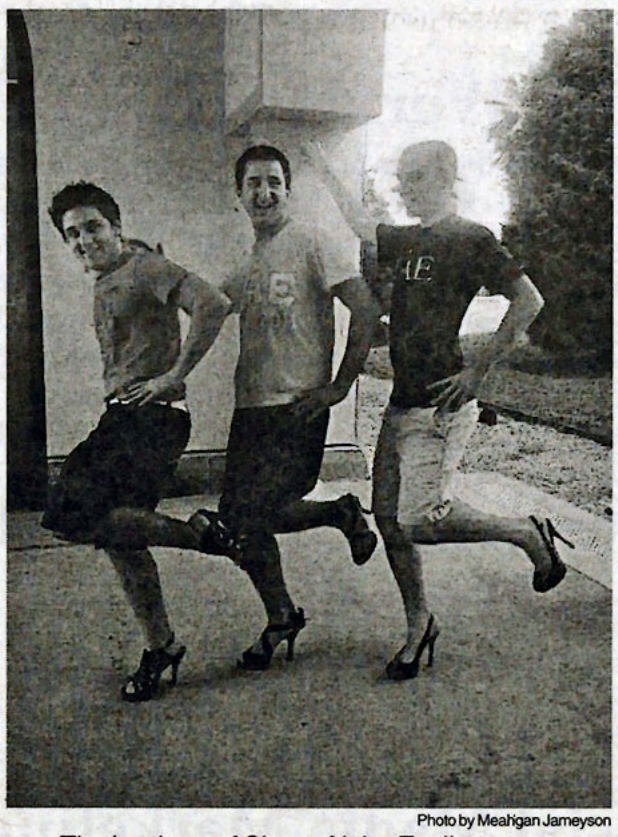


Photo by Meahgan Jameyson

The brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon try walking in women's shoes as part of their "A Walk to Remeber" event on October 8.

On October 8, 2011, The Florida Alpha-Mu Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon hosted their first annual event, A Walk to Remember, to raise money for the Susan G. Komen – For the Cure Foundation. The fundraiser was be held in a sponsorship style where spectators put money towards a brother of their choosing. The more money a brother had put towards them, the further and longer they have to walk...in women's high heels. Each "lap" the brother took would cost a sponsor $5.

"The brothers have come together and chosen this organization to work with because, as a chapter, we recognize that breast cancer has affected all of our lives," said Michael Castronuovo, president. "Many of the brothers' mothers, grandmothers, and close family friends have either battled the fight against breast cancer or are currently going through the fight right now. We chose this fundraiser to give back to our families, and more importantly to recognize the women in our lives that have gone above and beyond for us. If it weren't for these women, we would not be the men we are today. To us, this fundraiser was a way to give back to our loved ones."

How can you show support, get involved, and join in the fight against breast cancer? There are a few events still happening in the month of October to spread awareness. Theta Phi Alpha is holding a walk against breast cancer, with dates and times to be announced. Also, Tau Kappa Epsilon is hosting their fifth annual Pink Out Day for which they encourage all students to wear pink on October 27, 2011. The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon will also host a small giveaway that day for all who participate. Get out there and get involved!

Three Breast Cancer Facts You Should Know:

Twenty- eight percent of all cancers in women have breast cancer.

About one in eight women in the Unitwd States will develop breast cancer over the course of her lifetime, and as they grow older their risk increases.

One out of nine women diagnosed with breast cancer have some family history of the disease.

Local News

School of Business Spring Course Offerings

Are you Undecided, Curious, or Simply in Need of a Cool Elective?
Did you know the Donald R. Tapia School of Business offers an interesting variety of courses this spring?
The bottom line: Business is not just for business majors anymore. Everyone's life is impacted – and touched by – what goes on in the business world.
Whatever your interest (humanities, arts, sciences, education, social services, pre-law, pre-med), every graduate must navigate the "how-to" of earning a living. That's where business comes into play!
Check out these examples:

CMM 101: Introduction to Communication (3 credits)

The course introduces students to the theory and practice of communication and its impact on thinking and behavior, investigating communication from the perspective of relationships, gender, cultural diversity, ethics, and critical and persuasive thinking. It also considers the effect communication has on one's perception and the value placed on others.

If you would like to know more, please contact bruce.hammond@saintleo.edu.

COM 333: Web Design & Information Resources (3 credits)

An introductory course to the World Wide Web and the creation of online content, including the creation of web pages; the creation, selection, and use of digital media; and use of third-party websites for finding information and collaboration.

If you would like to know more, please contact bryan.reagan@saintleo.edu.

(Everyone benefits from this enjoyable, informative course offering!)

GBA 321: Essential Business Skills (3 credits)

The course focuses on the practical application of skills needed by emerging college graduates. Discussion topics include: active listening; interpersonal communications; interviewing; intercultural awareness and sensitivity; presentation skills; assertiveness; written communications; office politics; nonverbal communications; business etiquette; decision-making; career planning; job-seeking activities; creation of typical business documents; working in team/group environment; coaching/mentoring; conducting meetings; and self-assessment.

If you would like to know more, please contact either frank.arnold@saintleo.edu or barney.lowder@saintleo.edu.

(A highly recommended "must have" for soon-to-graduate students!)

IHT 105: Traveling the World for Fun & Profit (3 credits)

International tourism plays an integral part in the lives of college graduates in the 21st century. Students are encouraged to develop a personal philosophy for experiencing travel in a meaningful, responsible manner. It also explores basic tourism concepts and issues to facilitate the development of individual travel skills, demonstrate the dynamic interaction of the industry's various sectors and components, and develop a better understanding of the employment and business opportunities available on an international basis. The industry's character is discussed to highlight its potential relevance and application to a wide variety of majors and career interests.

If you would like to know more, please contact stan.mcgahey@saintleo.edu.

(Besides, it's FUN! And who doesn't love Travel, especially when you can Earn Money doing it!)

IHT 220: Introduction to International Hospitality and Tourism Management (3 credits)

Introductory course provides students with an overview of the tourism industry, including its history, primary characteristics, and career opportunities.

(Another great opportunity to engage with Prof. McGahey!)

NEW! MKT 345: Social Media Marketing (3 credits)

The course covers the techniques and methods on how to manage marketing operations online, focusing on presenting cutting-edge strategies that generate value by applying and adjusting marketing techniques in the online environment utilizing social media. Its purpose is to prepare students to expand marketing activities online and to coordinate traditional and social media marketing strategies in a way that maximizes long-term competitive advantage.

If you would like to know more, please contact ioannis.pantzalis@saintleo.edu.

(Everyone's taken by the social media craze. Now, put it to work for you!)

SPB 101: Introduction to Sport Business (3 credits)

The course provides an overview of career opportunities in the field of sport business. The course examines historical and current trends in the field while preparing students for further study in facility and event management, sport marketing, sport communication, college athletic administration, international sport, sport tourism, professional sports, history of sport, national and international governing bodies, and campus recreation.

If you would like to know more, please contact philip.hatlem@saintleo.edu.

Campus News

Florida first?

GOP primaries in disarray

By Greg Robinson
Online Editor

The Florida Republican Party has decided that they will move their 2012 presidential primary on Jan. 31 ahead of the Iowa primary, which is traditionally one of the first in the nation. This was followed up by Nevada declaring their primary for Jan. 14, as well as South Carolina rescheduling for Jan. 21, throwing the Republican Party into complete disarray.

Only four states are allowed to have their primary elections before Mar. 6. Typically, these four states are Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada. Nevada has moved up their primary from Feb. 16 to mid-January in order to "improve Nevada's standing and relevance in terms of national politics," according to a statement released by Nevada Republican Party Chairwoman Amy Tarkanian.

New Hampshire is expected to move their primary next, based on a law that declares the state must hold their first-in-the-nation primary at least seven days before the next one. This could result in a Jan. 3 primary, or even a late Dec. 2011 date. There are also rumors that Iowa will shift their primary as well in order to remain the first primary in the nation. All states must set their primaries by Oct. 28. Currently, New Hampshire is aiming for a mid-December primary unless Nevada alters their plans. New Hampshire Secretary of State William M. Gardner released a statement on Oct. 12 on his official website, clarifying that the primary date is mandated by New Hampshire law:

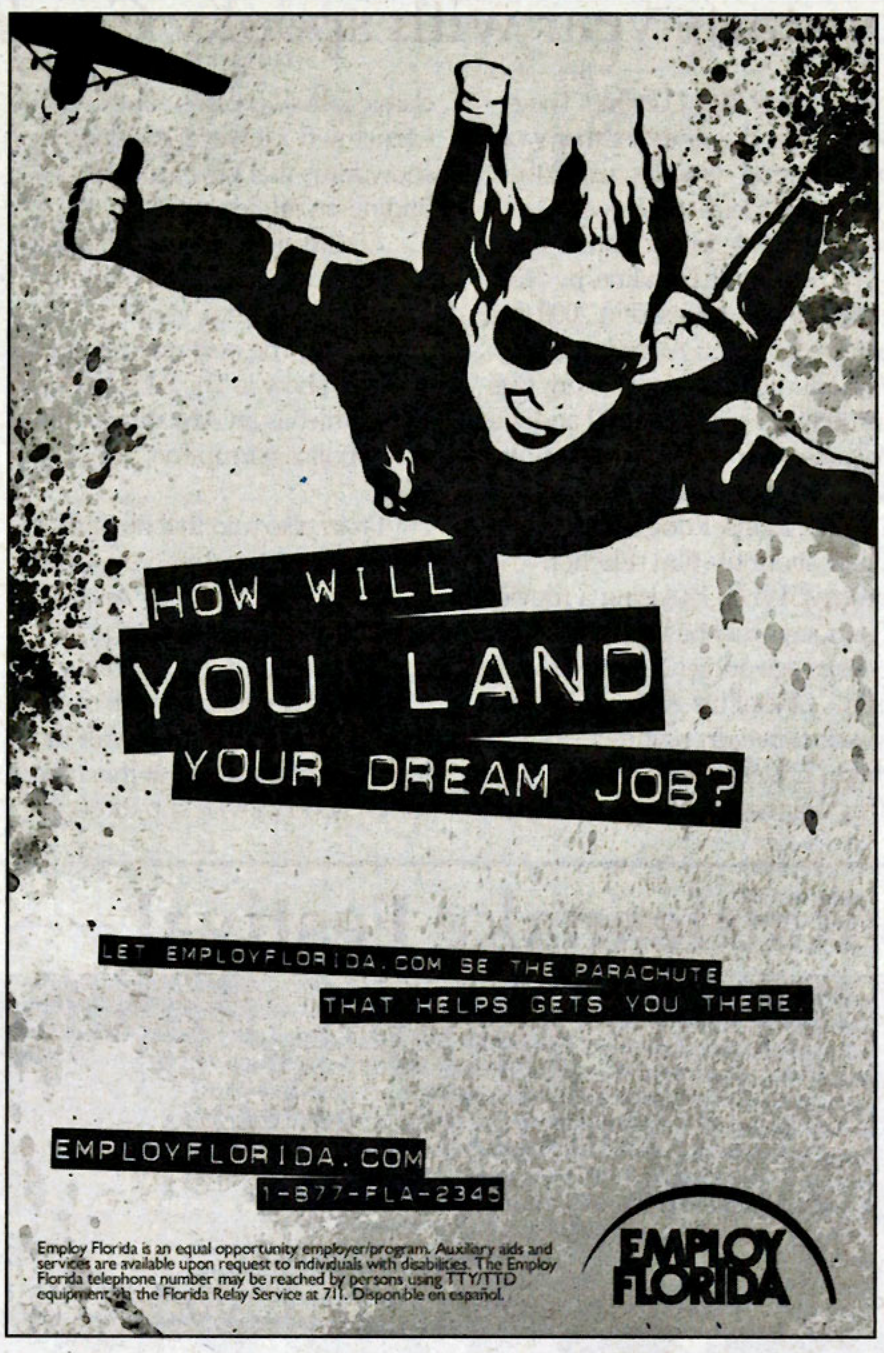
"If Nevada does not accept a date of Tuesday, January 17th or later for its caucus, it leaves New Hampshire no choice but to consider December of this year. The dates of Tuesday, December 13th, and Tuesday December 6th are realistic options, and we have logistics in place to make either date happen if needed. Candidates have been campaigning here, and elsewhere, for months, and it is about time we begin the next stage of the presidential nominating process."

The states moving their primaries, however, will not escape unscathed. Any state whose primary election violates RNC rules must sacrifice half of their voting delegates when it comes time for the national convention, which is set to be held in Tampa. This seems a small price to pay in exchange for national prominence. Iowa is the only state exempt from this rule.

The 2008 Presidential Primaries also had similar issues, with many states jockeying for early primary dates. Florida held their primary in Jan. in 2008 along with Michigan, resulting in both of these states losing half their votes at the national conventions.

The reason states move their dates up is to have a greater influence on the national political scene. Many states believe the prominence they gain from an early primary negates the loss of half their delegates at the national convention.

William M. Gardner's statement is available on his personal website, http://www.sos.nh.gov/.



New home for Admissions

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

Frank Mezzanini, Vice President of Business and Finance, spent year planning the renovations for the Saint Leo campus, and now it is the Admission Building that is receiving a much needed transformation.

As one of the first buildings that visitors see as they arrive on the Saint Leo campus, the Admissions building will double as the visitors center and admission headquarters. As the renovations are taking place, admission and security will temporarily be placed in the Marmion Center. As the Marmion Center's size being an issue, some of the admission staff will be relocated to the lower level of Saint Edwards Hall. The drama productions and all other activities that took place in the Marmion Center will be moved to the new Music trailer (located across from Plant Operations) and to Selby Auditorium. While this does present a scheduling problem, Mezzanini is confident that any scheduling issues can be resolved with the current space available on campus.

Although the new admission building is still in the beginning stages of planning, applying for permits,and finalizing blueprint layout, the new building will resemble the exterior academic elegance of the Donald A. Tapia Business Building. It will take the existing structure of the admission building, the gazebo, and the security building; and infuse all three into one encompassing structure. The only standing structure that is to be disassembled and torn down will be the gazebo area.

The long term goal of the new building is make it an admissions building only, moving the security to a different location entirely. "We don't want to spend a lot of money remodeling security and then three years from now gut it all out. It's just a waste of money. That's why we're phasing it all in," said Mezzanini. At this point, Mezzanini is not sure where security will be placed after the structure is complete, so for the short term security will be inside the new admission building.

"It takes two year from starting to plan to starting construction. We should have been in construction now, but because of some issues on price we're not quite ready to begin construction. Scotts'[the contractor that Saint Leo has tasked out for the admission building] original estimate started out well over 2 million dollars and is now at 1.8 million, but the board only approved 1.5, so that is why we are not expanding any of the building because, well, it's just too expensive," said Mezzanini about the keeping of the original structure and the delayed start of construction.

The building is scheduled to be under construction by the end of the Spring 2012 semester and will not be completed until Summer 2013. Mezzanini and his dream team of contractors have conjured up another beautiful addition to the already aesthetically pleasing academic atmosphere on campus. The Admissions building will stand, ready and waiting to greet the incoming freshman class of 2013.

Arts & Entertainment

SLU Film Society starts year with spooky *Coraline*

By Greg Robinson
Online Editor

The SLU Film Society held its first screening of the year on Monday Oct. 3, with a viewing of the animated flick Coraline. The film was the first of six films that will be shown throughout the school year.

The SLU Film Society is organized and run by associate professor of English Dr. Donald Pharr. This year, he has joined with associate professor of English Dr. Kathryn Stasio, who runs a book club on campus. The two organizations have joined together for a collaborative book/film study, starting with the novella and film Coraline. They will repeat this with another work in the spring semester, using the novel The Help, which was recently made into a feature film.

The novella Coraline, by Neil Gaiman, was released in 2002 and received a Hugo Award in 2003. The critically acclaimed work was turned into a film in 2009 and was nominated for best animated film at the Academy Awards.

The Lions' Pride spoke to Pharr about his film selection process. When choosing a movie, Pharr says that he keeps his college-age audience very much in mind. One of his goals is to show a classic film each year that students might not otherwise be exposed to. This year he is looking to show the classic Jack Nicholson film Chinatown. However, he doesn't show films that have trouble finding an audience.

"There are a lot of technically proficient and very well-made films that just aren't very interesting. The next one we are going to show is The Secret in their Eyes, which is an Argentinian film about police corruption," Pharr said.

Pharr also said that he looks to showcase movies that "you should have seen." As Academy Award season approaches, several good films are released in November and December to capitalize on the buzz before the awards. With the film market saturated at this time, some "good movies slip through the cracks," and the SLU film society is the perfect place to screen one of these good but unknown flicks.

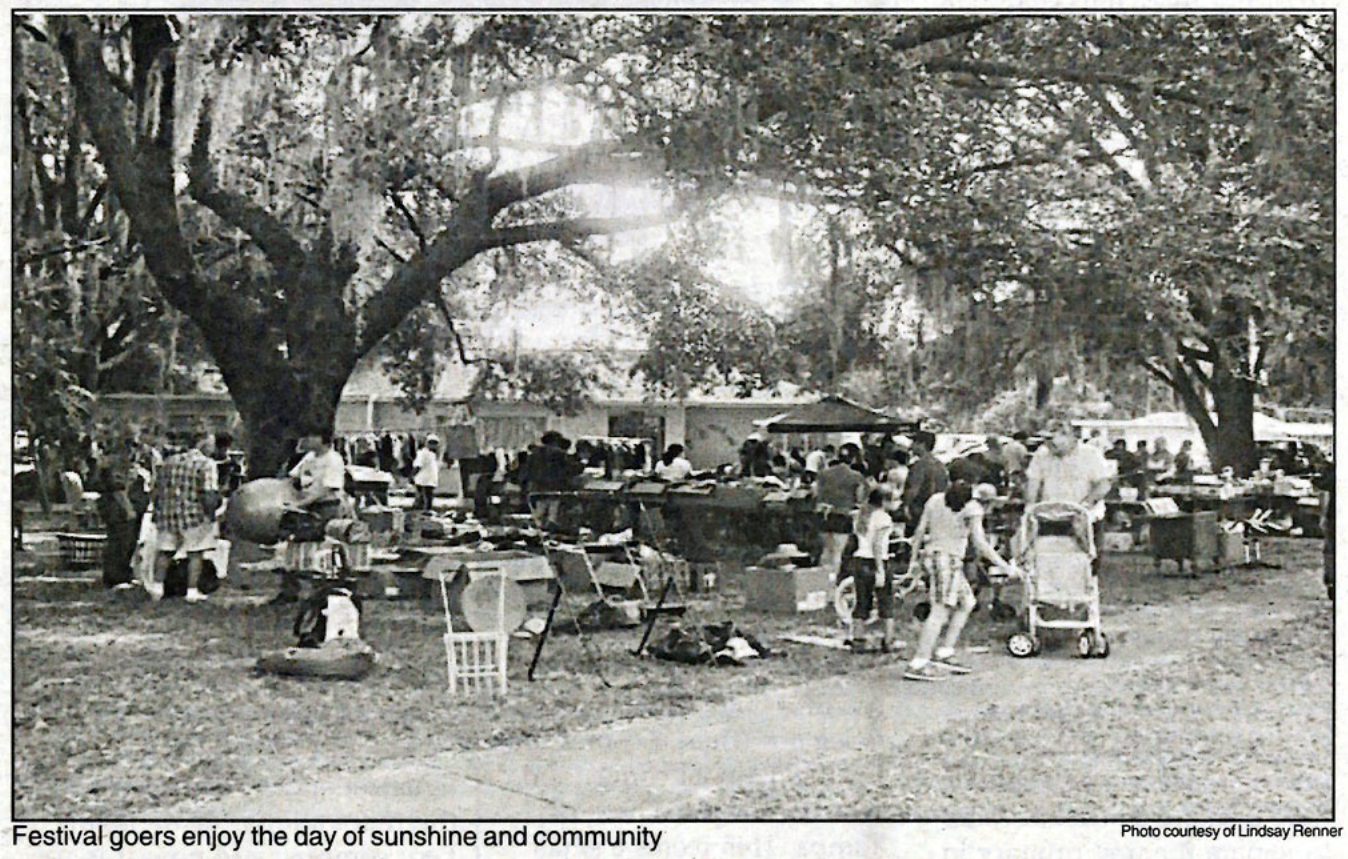
Last year, the SLU film society featured six films that related to each one of the core values at Saint Leo. Some of the films shown were The Hurt Locker, Persepolis, and Down in the Delta. Although the films will not have a theme this year, Pharr hopes to draw more people in by joining forces with the book club.

The film society will show two more films this semester and three next semester. Their next event will be November 3, with the screening of the film The Secret in their Eyes.

San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival

Not Just Snakes

By Meahgan Jameyson
Staff Writer



Festival goers enjoy the day of sunshine and community

Photo courtesy of Lindsay Renner

Every year in October, Dade City's annual Rattlesnake Festival takes place. This year, the festivities were as grand and unique as ever, boasting food, vendors, and entertainment.

Walking into the festival, which took place in the center of a blocked off San Antonio, the first thing all visitors caught a glimpse of was a small car show boasting large, lifted trucks with paint jobs that would shame a stained glass window and vintage cars older than many of the festival's visitors.

After the car show and surrounding the festival in a large rectangle were vendor tents. Each tent was selling something different, and each novelty was as unique as the next. A few of these were selling hand-made soaps, hand-crafted jewelry, golf balls with faces carved into them, and something called a "redneck wind chime" which was constructed by nailing empty beer cans to a wooden plank. There was even a booth for Saint Leo University's Future Teachers of America organization which was providing free arts and crafts for festival-goers.

At the center of the ring of vendors stood giant inflatable moon bounces in the guises of a basketball court, a princess castle, and an obstacle course. Also sharing the space with the inflatables were blood drive stations, pony rides, and an animal exhibition. Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Incorporated had animals on display for festival visitors, including a full grown bobcat, panther, and tiger.

In the midst of all the merriment, there was assuredly a more serious side to the Rattlesnake Festival. The James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital was at the festival reaching out to local veterans. The hospital's goal was to both inform veterans without health benefits that they could enroll for such benefits through the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, and to offer free flu shots to veterans already enrolled.

There were many forms of entertainment provided for festival guests. The Rattlesnake Festival boasted live music, including Ashley Shannon, the North America Country Music Associations International 2011 Entertainer and Country Album of the Year. For the children, there were gopher races held in the center of the grassy field next to the animal enclosures. Each child got to decorate a saddle for their gopher and pulled them (or "raced" them) along two lengths of rope on the track. All gopher "jockeys" won a ribbon at the finish of the race, no matter what place they came in. Also, snake shows were held in the same section of the field every hour for the duration of the festival. Though this show was mesmerizing and breathtaking, it was wonderfully relieving to know that the Rattlesnake Festival is not only about snakes; it has so much more to offer.

Creative Corner

Are you a struggling artist that is trying to get published? Look no further! The Lions' Pride wants to help your masterpieces make it to publication. All submissions will be considered for publication and can be, but not limited to poems, prose, short stories, photos, and drawings.

All text submissions to The Lions' Pride should be no more than 500 words in length and should not include profane or slanderous language. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, and liable, as well as the right to publish or not. All submissions must be sent with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include their rank and department. In order to be considered for publication, all submission must be sent to brooke.king@email.saintleo.edu by October 28, 2011.

The Ides of March :
A crash course on dirty politics and campaign tactics

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

"Beware the Ides of March" – words of warning from the Soothsayer to Julies Caesar. While no one is assassinated in George Clooney's most recent film—which he co-wrote, directed, and starred in— it is a film that raises the question of whether or not politics is a death knell for morality.

Stephen Myers (Ryan Gosling) is a rising star political media consultant whose razor sharp instincts have landed him a job working for Pennsylvania Governor Mike Morris' (George Clooney) campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. There is only one man above Steve that stands in the way of his dream job: Morris' current campaign manager Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman). While Paul and Stephen work together each day to further Gov. Morris in the campaign and keep him on top of the leader poll, there is only one constituent that stands in the way of Gov. Morris's victory, and that is Arkansas Senator Pullman with his over eager campaign manager Tom Duffy (Paul Giamatti). Both candidates seek to win Ohio's Democratic primary election. If Gov. Morris can gain Ohio's delegates, he will win the Democratic nomination. Without the win, the presidential nomination goes out the window.

Naive and less jaded than Paul, Stephen truly believes in Morris. Like many other staffers, Stephen believes a presidential win will gain him a White House job. When

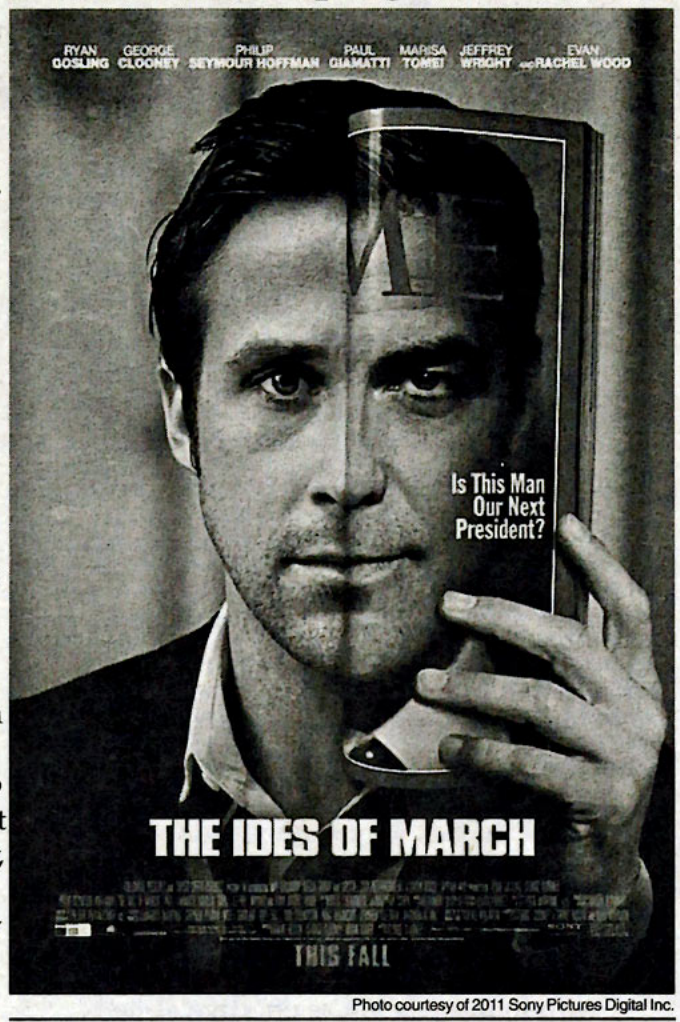


Photo courtesy of 2011 Sony Pictures Digital Inc.

Stephen runs into Molly (Evan Rachel Wood), a twenty year old campaign intern, who is also the daughter of the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he breaks the one cardinal rule of the campaign trail: "Don't screw the interns." Very soon after their first encounter, Molly drops a bombshell on Stephen. This piece of news could destroy the campaign for Morris. In an amazing turn of events, Stephan must decided to stay with Morris or jump ship over to Tom Duffy's campaign with Senator Pullman. Forced into silence by political corruption from Duffy and press manipulation by determined journalist, Ida (Marisa Tomei), who is eager for any and all campaign stories; Stephen must figure out who to trust and who he has to black mail in order to secure his dream job. Caught between what is right and what he has to do to survive, Stephan must decide whether winning is everything.

The drama of the film is only heightened by the superb acting dished out by Clooney, Hoffman, Tomei, Gosling, and Giamatti. Each one seemingly captivates and enthralls each scene they are in, even the ones that they share together. Even Evan Rachel Wood, who is only present for a couple of scenes, seems turn out a decent performance.

It's clear that *The Ides of March* won't be for everyone. With its obvious Republican bashing and Obama-esque campaign posters looming in a multitude of scenes, the film lends itself to a cynical take on politicians and the campaigns they run. *The Idles of March* won't leave you with any "hope" about politics or anything in general. Instead, the film offers only realism instead of "hope." *The Idles of March*, released during an election year, strikes a blow at the current political campaigns for presidential candidacy and leaves the audience questioning the morality of politics in the United States.

The Devil Wears Prada's *Dead Throne*

By Grant Schrantz
Staff Writer

The Devil Wears Prada has done it again. They released another fantastic album entitled Dead Throne, which hit stores last September. It has succeeded in delivering the listener another exhilarating set of songs with intricate guitar work, crazy bass licks, rapid drumming that doesn't hold back on the double bass pedals, and as usual, deep meaningful lyrics behind each one.

The Dayton, Ohio based band's lineup consist of Mike Hranica(vocals), Chris Rubey(guitar), Jeremy DePoyster(guitar/vocals), James Baney(keyboard), Daniel Williams(drums), and Andy Trick(bass). This epic new release will be the band's fourth studio album and quite an adventurous one too. With the band choosing to leave behind a few formerly defining traits of past albums, such as silly song names and pop culture references, trading them out for a much more mature album centered on the follies of idolatry. The album has followed a much different vocal style than its predecessors as well, with Hranica's vocals having a much less shrill sound, (which in my opinion may be the only downside to Dead Throne) and DePoyster abstaining from singing at all on some of the tracks.

Though it is not necessarily a concept album according to an interview with Hranica in Lithium magazine, he stated that "The record is mostly based on idolatry" although "Some songs have a very different take on it than others do". While the track "Holdfast" focuses on the more positive aspect of transcending idolatry and materialism, its counterpart "Kansas" with the sparse lyrics it has is more about the gritty reality of facing God once one no longer has an idol to cling to. Personally, Kansas is probably my favorite song on the record due to the ethereal and somewhat frightening depth of it. It is closely followed by "Constance" for its blatantly brutal sound and lyrics about insomnia, a problem not too uncommon nowadays.

Dead Throne is a solid 4.5 out of 5 stars and definitely a good listen while working out, rocking out, or even just hanging out with some friends. I would say that my positive thoughts on this album after listening to it countless times is that this album is a phenomenal testimony of the band's musical talent and how far they have come since their start in 2005.

Zombie Slaying Playlist

By Amanda Butler
Asst. Online Editor

It is sunset. You are alone in Lewis Hall. You are surrounded by zombies in every direction. Your only protection is your trusty poison-tipped Samurai sword. You close your eyes, readying for battle. Cue music.

1. "Beautiful People"
   Marilyn Manson
   Antichrist Superstar

2. "Army of Me (Sucker Punch Remix)"
   Bjork featuring Skunk Anansie
   Sucker Punch Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

3. "Who You Gonna Call?!"
   Dr. Acula
   Slander

4. "Fury"
   Epic Score
   Epic Action and Adventure Vol. 4

5. "O Fortuna Remix"
   All the Stars

6. "Beginning of the End"
   Amebix

7. "Living Dead Girl"
   Rob Zombie
   Hellbilly Deluxe

8. "Lip Gloss and Black"
   Atreyu
   Suicide Notes and Butterfly Kisses

9. "Nightmare"
   Avenged Sevenfold
   Nightmare

10. "The Night"
    Disturbed
    Indestructible

Congratulations. You just killed a hoard of zombies. Have a good and safe Halloween!

Sports

The resurgence of the Detroit Lions

By Scott Brumett
Staff Writer

In the 2008-2009 season when the Detroit Lions went 0-16 for the regular season, all hope was lost. At that time fans had to hide their faces in shame. But then in the next year's NFL Draft they drafted overall number 1 pick Matthew Stafford, a Quarterback from the University of Georgia. Since being in the league Stafford has had a problem staying healthy but has shown glimpses of greatness. From the moment he had been set for rehab, Stafford went hard at 110 percent. He wanted to be the player he knew he was capable and help the Lions win and go to the playoffs.

They have also bolstered their defensive line with Ndamakong Suh and Nick Fairley. Suh was a standout player last. Suh won the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year award. He was an absolute monster last year with recording ten sacks, four pass deflections, one forced fumble, and one defensive touchdown. The numbers are eye popping, but he has become great at putting pressure on the quarterback. What's even more great about him is that whenever he is given a chance to hit the Quarterback, he will take that opportunity and hit him hard. Nick Fairley is a rookie this year and had a hurt ankle toi start the season, but from what we have seen with his playing time is that he too is great in putting pressure on the Quarterback as well. Both Suh and Fairley are going to be a force to be reckoned with.

Now we go to stand out wide receiver Calvin Johnson Jr. Johnson is just plain and simple a physical freak and a corners nightmare. Johnson stands at six feet and five inches tall with a vertical jump of 45 inches. This receiver has also through the first five games a NFL record to his name. With 9 touchdowns in 5 games, he has the most touchdowns in the first five games of the season. This physical freak's nickname is magnetron because he is a big play maker and his plays are always shown on the megatron. With Johnson being as effective as he is this year, he should set some new NFL records and he should help the Lions playoff hopes become a reality.

The last important piece to this new Lions team is Jim Schwartz, the head coach of the Lions. He has that old school backyard football grit. He has instilled the Lions with a new self confidence and told them to just forget about the perception by everyone that they cannot win. It has worked so far because through five games the Lions are a perfect 5-0.

Through the combination of efforts from all the players and Jim Schwartz leading them all, the Lions should Roar into the Playoffs. These Lions are not your mother's Detroit Lions. These Lions are for real and have the players, personnel, and attitude to be a real contender in the league. These Lions I can tell you are angry and fired up and they have been reborn. They are the team to really watch. This resurgence is applauding and exciting to see.

Locked out: NBA season in jeopardy

By Scott Brumett
Staff Writer

For the last few months, NBA owners and players have been meeting periodically to come through with an agreement to settle the current deal that is set in place. Currently, the NBA is locked out and have just cancelled the first two weeks of the regular season due to the fact that no new deal has been instituted. For the last two years representatives have been meeting trying to get a new deal in place that was fair to both the owners and the players. The owners and players unions were about to agree to split all revenues earned right down the middle with a 50/50 split. Before the announcement some players, which include Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Kobe Bryant announced to the owners and Commissioner David Stern that the 50/50 split was not good enough and refused to discuss anything more.

What has most angered the players is that they were told to accept 50 percent, when under the old collective bargaining agreement they collected 57 percent of all revenues. Furthermore, the owners now will not go under fifty percent of all revenues. So in a sense they could want more money. Now, they are at a stalemate with a lockout and are trying to put a new collective bargaining agreement together that is fair for both sides.

It would appear that both sides are at fault with the current labor dispute. Right now, the United States of America is enduring a recession that affects everyone. Everyone needs to realize the gravity of the situation in the times we are enduring and take their losses and cuts and just play the game they love. Back in the Great Depression, sports were meant to excite the citizens and bring hope. It does not inspire anyone in the community to see these rich individuals argue about a few percentages or revenues. What they need to do is come up with a sensible agreement that appeals not only to the players and owners but also to the community. Everyone has taken cuts in this hard time , why should they be any different? They should be treated the same way as everyone else and in sense learn how to budget properly.

I know it has been a popular trend to put athletic superstars up high on a pedestal, but now is the time where we must knock them off of it. Now is the time where they should play for us and bet at the same level as the people of the community. If they do not do something fast and smart at the same time, I believe that the NBA season will be lost and there will be a whole year without professional basketball in the United States.

Upcoming Events

Saturday October 22
Cross Country 7:30 am
Sunshine State Conference Championships 6k
WomensVolleyball 4:00pm
at Florida Tech
Men's Soccer 7:00pm
vs Florida Tech
Senior Night / Lions' Athletic Fund Hospitality
Women's Soccer 7:00pm
at Barry
Monday October 24
Men's Golf TBD
Rollins Invitational
Forest Lake Golf Club
Orlando

Soccer uproar

By Ryan McCardell
Staff Writer

This season has been everything but boring for Saint Leo sports. We have seen the rise of new coaches and players alike, yet we have also seen a tremendous boost in athletic competition. The Lady Lions soccer squad has been hard at work this offseason, showing now in their season.

The conference leading Lions were out to a red-hot start becoming 10-0-0, as Senior Goalie Kelcee Mai said, "taking it one game at a time is what we're going to do." With bright things ahead of these women, their eyes are on the ultimate prize, NCAA Champions. Mai has three more conference games, including Senior Night. At Senior Night, 8 Seniors will be honored for their dedication and efforts to putting Saint Leo on the soccer map.

Mai commented on the hard work of the team, saying "We've been playing really hard, and we aim to outwork everyone every time we step on the field." The hard work put into the offseason was helped in part by the soccer team having a Facebook group to keep in touch and motivate each other through workouts.Earlier in the season, the Lady Lions mauled Mercy College 8-0 before the contest was called due to inclement weather in the second half of play.

Kelcee has been with the team since her freshman year and has noticed the talent coming to Saint Leo. "This is the best team we've ever had!" said Mai about how strong the Lions look in regular season play, where one can only hope to win the Sunshine State Conference and move into the playoffs. "We're strong all the way through our team, from seniors to freshman, we're like a family here."

The Lady Lions will play Florida Southern October 19 in their last home game, a conference game, and Senior Night; quite a big night of sports for Saint Leo.